

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205550
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM
APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM
NEA:AKKORKY
S/S-O: TGMARTIN
T - MRS. BENSON
H - MR ATWOOD

-----092072 142226Z /61

O R 142205Z AUG 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
WHITE HOUSE 0000

S E C R E T STATE 205550

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, MNUC, MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND
PAKISTAN'S MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AGHA SHAHI
ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE

SUMMARY: DURING HIS MEETING WITH AGHA SHAHI IN NEW YORK
ON AUGUST 11, UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM DESCRIBED OUR INTEN-
TIONS AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO THE RESUMPTION
OF AID TO PAKISTAN IF THE REPROCESSING ISSUE IS RESOLVED.
SHAHI INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOP
TO PROVIDE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ASSURANCES ON PAKISTAN'S
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 205550

FUTURE INTENTIONS ON REPROCESSING. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS MEETING WITH AGHA SHAHI, THE UNDER SECRETARY
NOTED THAT WE WERE AWARE DISCUSSIONS ON THE REPROCESSING
PLANT WERE NOW GOING ON BETWEEN FRANCE AND PAKISTAN AND
WE DID NOT WISH TO PROBE, BUT HE WANTED TO SHARE WITH
AGHA SHAHI THE RESULTS OF OUR INITIAL, VERY QUIET CONSULTA-

TIONS WITH SENATOR GLENN AND CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI. NEWSOM HAD BRIEFED THESE KEY LEADERS ON HIS TRIP TO THE AREA, INCLUDING THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES SUBSEQUENT TO THE AFGHAN COUP AND THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. HE TOLD THEM THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUING BETWEEN FRANCE AND PAKISTAN ON THE REPROCESSING

PLANT AND ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE, IF THERE WERE A SUSPENSION OF THE PROJECT FOR ANY REASON, WE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT WITH KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ABOUT THE RESUMPTION OF ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. HE HAD EXPLAINED TO BOTH MEN THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR PAKISTAN TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMITMENTS FORESWEARING REPROCESSING AND THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE CONGRESS OUR ESTIMATE OF GOP INTENTIONS. BOTH GLENN AND ZABLOCKI EXPRESSED CONTINUING CONCERN OVER GOP INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND FELT THAT SOME FIRM COMMITMENT ON NO REPROCESSING IN THE FUTURE MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

2. MR. NEWSOM SAID THAT HE WAS PROVIDING AGHA SHAHI WITH THIS BACKGROUND IN ORDER TO BE SURE THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT OUR POSITION ON ASSURANCES. AS NEWSOM HAD INFORMED AMBASSADOR Yaqub-Khan, IF WE LEARN OF A DECISION ON SUSPENSION OF THE REPROCESSING PROJECT, WE WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL AGREEMENT TO RESUME
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 205550

OUR ASSISTANCE. WE WILL HAVE TO CONVINCE GLENN AND OTHERS THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF PAKISTAN PROCEEDING WITH ITS OWN REPROCESSING PLANT. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS ON THE HILL, NEWSOM WOULD LIKE VERY FRANKLY TO POINT OUT THAT OUR ABILITY TO GAIN CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENCE WOULD BE FACILITATED BY SOME KIND OF PAKISTANI ASSURANCE ON THEIR FUTURE INTENTIONS AND WOULD, ON THE OTHER HAND, BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY ANY PUBLIC GOP COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE WITH REPROCESSING. NEWSOM SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE WAS VERY STRONG FEELINGS ON THE HILL ABOUT NON-PROLIFERATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY THAT LEADS TO WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. INDEED, THIS IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF CONCERN TO CONGRESS BUT TO PRESIDENT CARTER AS WELL. THE DEGREE TO WHICH PAKISTAN MIGHT PROCLAIM PUBLICLY ITS INTENTIONS TO GO FORWARD WITH THE PLANT WILL OBVIOUSLY COMPLICATE THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENCE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS OUR PROBLEM AND WHAT THE GOP DOES IS WITHIN ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS.

3. AGHA SHAHI CLAIMED THE GOP HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY AMBASSADOR HUMMEL'S DEMARCHE ON ASSURANCES. IT WAS FELT

THE U.S. WAS GOING BEYOND THE GLENN AMENDMENT AND MAKING DEMANDS THAT NO COUNTRY COULD ACCEPT. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE UNDER SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO GENERAL ZIA. HE SAID PAKISTAN WILL NOT INFORM US OF ANY SUSPENSION OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT. IF FRANCE SO INFORMS US IT WILL BE A MATTER BETWEEN THE U.S. AND FRANCE. PAKISTAN WOULD CONSIDER THE FRENCH TO BE RENEGING ON A CONTRACT

AND CAN UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE APPEAR TO BE ACQUIESCING. IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY FATAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ASSURANCES REGARDING FUTURE PLANS ON REPROCESSING. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL STUDYING HOW TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION AND SUGGESTED THAT THE MINIMUM THE GOP WOULD HAVE TO DO IS TELL ITS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 205550

PUBLIC THAT PAKISTAN HAS THE UNFETTERED RIGHT TO DO WHAT IT WISHES AND WILL RETAIN ALL ITS OPTIONS.

4. SHAHI PROBED ON THE SUBJECT OF PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY A NEGATIVE CONGRESSIONAL VIEW ON RESTORATION OF AID AND THE UNDER SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT IT COULD AFFECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES OR CREDIT. THINGS IN THE PIPELINE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, NOR WOULD PL-480. SHAHI ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF DEBT RESCHEDULING AND REGRETTED THAT OUR NEGATIVE POSITION SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LINKED TO THE CURRENT QUOTE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES UNQUOTE. HE ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. ALONE AMONG CREDITOR NATIONS HAD BEEN QUOTE ODD MAN OUT UNQUOTE. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO SHAHI THAT OUR DECISION ON DEBT RESCHEDULING WAS MADE ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS AND WAS RELATED TO PAKISTAN'S UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH LEVEL OF REMITTANCES. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT OTHER CONSORTIUM MEMBERS HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS.

5. MR. NEWSOM INQUIRED ABOUT GENERAL ZIA'S PLANS TO BROADEN THE BASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND ASKED IF THIS MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE GENERAL TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING. SHAHI RESPONDED THAT ZIA HAD TALKED SEVERAL TIMES WITH THE VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS AND ALL OF THEM SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON REPROCESSING. SHAHI REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT OUR EMBASSY SHOULD NOT BELIEVE ANY PRIVATE REMARKS TO THE CONTRARY OF OUR POLITICAL CONTACTS, SINCE NONE OF THEM WOULD TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION AGAINST REPROCESSING. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM ZIA THE PREVIOUS EVENING, AND THE CMLA HAD INDICATED HE WOULD BE KEEPING THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE PORTFOLIOS. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, MILITARY SALES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE205550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JACCOON:DAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840140-2279
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780866/aaaacddf.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88208663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1745114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND PAKISTAN'S MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AGHA SHAHI ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE
TAGS: PEPR, MNUC, MASS, MILI, EAID, PK, US, (NEWSOM, DAVID D), (SHAHI, AGHA)
To: ISLAMABAD PARIS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88208663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014